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NOTE VERBALE DATED 24 SEPTEMBER 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith the following documents:

1. Excerpts of a letter from a Catholic priest in East Timor dated 14 July 1984, concerning the situation in that Territory;

2. An interview with Msgr. Martinho da Costa Lopes, former papal administrator of East Timor, published in Newsweek international of 3 September 1984.

It will be highly appreciated if these documents can be distributed as documents of the Security Council.

Annex I

Extracts from a letter from a priest in East Timor dated 14 July 1984

[Translation]

January to June 1984

1. Massive presence of Indonesian battalions with tanks, assault cars and cannons in Los Palos, Baucau, Laga, Ossu, Viqueque, Venilale, Vemasse, Becoli, Dili, Remexio, Aileu, Maubisse, Ainaro, Same, Zumalai. Estimated 30 to 40 thousand Indonesian soldiers.

2. The populations are encircled in their villages. They cannot go and look for food. There is continuous pressure and surveillance exercised by the Indonesian soldiers on the people. In many villages, for example in Baguia and Los Palos, the people are summoned twice a day, one by one, in the morning at 5.30 h and in the afternoon at 4 h.

3. During the months of March, April and May in various regions (Baucau, Laga, Quelicai, Fatumaca, Venilale, Ossu, Viqueque, Bobonaro, Ainaro and Same), the men and youths were forced to go with the Indonesian military to the mountains to search for the armed resistance. The military only gave a little bit of corn to these people. These operations lasted from one week to 15 days. They came back full of hunger, tired and sick. The result of the military operation was zero.

4. In many regions the people live under great difficulties, they are hungry: Baguia, Quelicai, Los Palos, Viqueque, Maubisse, Bobonaro and Zumalai. In some regions of Viqueque the people only eat straw and weeds.

5. The Indonesian military confines itself to the villages, roads and main ways. Constantly harass the population. Any denouncement even without the least motive leads immediately to imprisonment, torture and generally to disappearance (they are killed).

6. In Baucau at the airport are 8 fighter planes: 4 Broncos* and 4 jet fighters. Every day they carry out bombardments in various areas: Baucau, Los Palos, Viqueque, Vatu Lari, Watu Carabau, Ainaro, Bobonaro and Zumalai.

7. In Dili at the military airport there are 12 military helicopters for the transport of soldiers, food for the soldiers and munitions, as well as for the evacuation of wounded and dead soldiers.

8. In some regions the populations live under constant fear: of being attacked by the armed resistance (Fretilin) which carries out operations of reprisal or is searching for food; on the other hand they are harassed and pressured by the

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* N.T.: U.S. supplied counterinsurgency planes.

presence of the Indonesian military which does not defend nor protect the populations.

9. The armed resistance (Fretilin) is well organized and is efficient in its assaults on Indonesian military posts.

10. From mid-April to mid-May, starting at the intersection of the Baucau-Laga road in direction of Quelicai, which means from the beach to Quelicai, military security posts were set up every 20 metres. Every 20 metres there were 5 Timorese militia and an Indonesian soldier (Topi Merah).

11. In June 1984 on the Dili-Baucau road there were 15 military checkpoints. Whoever travels has to make a stop and be checked. Between Baucau and Fatumaca there are 3 checkpoints. The military makes you stop, asks questions and searches you. On the Vemasse-Baucau road the military patrols the road. Every 20 metres there is military.

12. Many political prisoners imprisoned in August, September and October 1983 were tortured in various ways. Some died due to the ill-treatment.

In May 1984 about 15 of these political prisoners were tried and condemned: some to 17 years of prison, others to 15 years, others to 12 years and others to 7 years. Some of these prisoners were taken from Dili to an unknown place. They were taken tied up in a Hercules military plane to an unknown place. Among them was a Timorese woman who had given birth to a child in prison. The baby's little arms were chained to its mother's arms who was holding it on her lap. Some Timorese witnesses were horrified by this cruelty.

[Account from priest continued]

Some events that took place between January and June 1984

1. During the month of March 1984 some people were bribed by the military to kill (by means of betrayal) three members of the armed resistance (Fretilin). They brought the heads to Bobonaro. The military forced the people to dance during two nights in front of the heads and to kick the heads during the macabre dance. Afterwards a high Indonesian military officer came from Dili to give a prize to the "heroes" who had brought the heads. They brought the people together and solemnly delivered some jute to the heroes of the deed.

2. From March 1984 on in the administrative district of Hau Ba, close to Bobonaro, many men and youths were imprisoned and killed. In the tribe Kota Boot, near Hau Ba, almost all men and youths disappeared. They were taken by Indonesian soldiers, killed and thrown on a fallow piece of land: the buffaloes ate the bodies. There are eye-witnesses to what happened. The witnesses talk of the complete extermination of the population.

3. At the end of April 1984 two bags with two human bodies were thrown into a ditch on the Dili-Dare road at a place called Na'in. Some people noticed the smell

and saw the bags with the corpses. In mid-May the bags had been taken away. It is presumed that they were slain political prisoners.

4. In the early morning of the 14th of May Fretilin entered the administrative district of Caravela close to Vemasse. On the day before they had advised the battalion 401 which is stationed there that on the 14th they would enter Caravela. In fact in the early morning of the 14th many Fretilin members arrived, they killed 2 Indonesian soldiers, 3 Timorese militia. The battalion 401 did not react. The village of Caravela has no church. The missionary from Baucau from time to time celebrates mass in a house of the village. It happened that one of the houses where the priest had held a mass was burnt down. On the 15th of May the Prelate of the diocese of Dili together with the Governor was invited by the Indonesian military to visit the place in order to see how "communist" Fretilin is because it burns churches. But the Prelate who arrived on the 15th still could see the rest of the house burning. But the Fretilin attack had been on the 14th. How is it possible that a simple Timorese house all made of straw and wood takes more than 24 hours to burn down? The military also accused Fretilin of burning statues of saints that were in this church. But there was no statue of a saint because the house was not a church and had no statues of saints. On the same date, the 14th of May, Fretilin entered the regions of Los Palos, Viqueque and Zumalai.

5. From the 19th to the 20th of May Fretilin entered the village of Samalari near Baucau. One member of the population died.

6. On the 21st of May Fretilin entered the village Uma Kerek near Seical (Baucau). Various civilians were killed; one of the leaders of the village was taken to the bush.

7. On the 24th of May a woman called Teresa (22 years old) of the Malevru tribe (Quelicai) who belonged to Fretilin fell into an ambush; she was wounded and taken together with her baby to the hospital of Baucau. A few days later she was killed by the Indonesian military.

8. On the 30th of May Tomas da Silva, Jacinto da Silva and Vicente Freitas all from Bucoli were imprisoned and taken to Baucau. At midnight they were killed by Indonesian soldiers in Baucau. Motives: They had contacts with Fretilin.

9. During the month of May about one hundred people from Allas, mostly men and youths, were imprisoned and taken to Same. Among them was the village chief of Allas and his assistants. In Same they were terribly tortured in an effort to get them to confess that they had contacts with Fretilin. A witness affirms that he heard the piercing screams of the victims and that he could not sleep.

10. At the end of May, beginnings of June in the village Leoma near Bazar-Tete the soldiers started to imprison and kill many men and boys. Some managed to flee and hide themselves in other villages or with family members.

11. On the 15th of May in the village of Laleia an Indonesian soldier was seen kicking a head in the street in public; it seemed to be the head of a boy. The whole population was present in silence without saying a word or showing any reaction. The fear forces the people to keep to themselves their strong feelings of repulsion.

Annex II

'The Timorese Will Fight to the End'

INTERVIEW: MARTINHO DA COSTA LOPES

Msgr. Martinho da Costa Lopes, 65, is the former papal administrator or acting bishop of East Timor. An outspoken advocate of independence for the former Portuguese colony that has been occupied by Indonesian troops since 1975, he was recalled by the Vatican last year under pressure from Indonesia's conservative Roman Catholic bishops. Now retired and living in Lisbon, he spoke there last week with NEWSWEEK'S *Ken Pottinger about the continuing guerrilla war on the tiny island and the prospects for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Excerpts:*

POTTINGER: ***Do you think that Washington has a role to play in resolving the East Timor problem? Is it possible that the United States could put effective pressure on Indonesia?***

DA COSTA LOPES: We have to distinguish between the views of the American people and those of the government. I believe that the people of the United States are sympathetic to the case of East Timor but the American government is compromised with Indonesia. As you know, [the then U.S. secretary of state] Henry Kissinger was in Jakarta the day before Indonesia invaded, and made it clear that the United States was not opposed to the move. Washington has since provided much of the military equipment used by Indonesia in its fight against the resistance in East Timor.

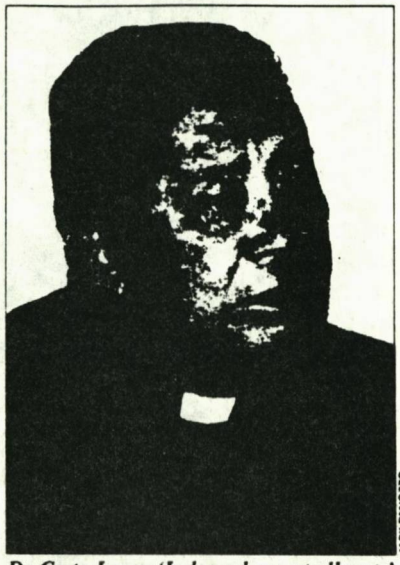
Still, America could make amends by persuading Jakarta to end the fighting in Timor and negotiate the territory's independence. I am hopeful that with growing support in the U.S. Congress and Senate, there will be a change in official American attitudes.

Q. ***What do you think of suggestions that East Timor should become an autonomous state associated with Indonesia but preserving its Portuguese cultural ties?***

A. I think the people of East Timor will firmly reject such an idea. They are determined to fight [for independence] to the end. They want to be independent at all costs. The proposal is ingenuous when you consider that 200,000 Timorese have lost their lives for independence. The people of East Timor know the Indonesians too well to want anything more to do with them.

Q. ***Australian Foreign Minister William Hayden is due in Lisbon next week to discuss East Timor with the Portuguese government. If he asks to see you, what would you tell him?***

A. I will tell him about my experiences there and urge him to help East Timor gain



JACK PANOZZO

Da Costa Lopes: 'Independence at all costs'

independence. Australia knows very well how many thousands of Timorese died during World War II in helping the Australians fight against the Japanese. Now we look to Australia to help us in our struggle for independence.

Q. ***What is your assessment of current Portuguese and United Nations diplomatic efforts—or lack of them—aimed at solving the East Timor problem?***

A. I think they are more hopeful since Secretary of State George Shultz met in July with [Indonesian Foreign Minister] Kusumaatmadja Mochtar. Portugal too is renewing efforts, but I don't think anything can be really achieved without first consulting the people of East Timor. There are three parties to this problem—Portugal, Indonesia and the Timorese people. I think the United Nations should try to persuade Indonesia to let the U.N. send a delegation into East Timor. The U.N. should go into the mountains of Timor and talk to the people. They should discuss the situation with Xa Na Na Gusmao, the leader of the Fretilin guerrillas, who is the authentic representative of the Timorese people. I think such a move would be possible because last year during the cease-fire between Fretilin and Indonesian troops there were talks between the two sides in Timor.

Q. ***Are you a supporter of Fretilin?***

A. I support Fretilin as a symbol of national resistance against Indonesia. I don't know if they are communist or not. But I believe that after so many years of illegal occupation by the Indonesian troops, the people of East Timor want nothing more to do with Indonesia because their experience has been so bad.

Q. ***During your time as a priest in Timor you described conditions as desperate. Can you give some examples of what it was like when you were there?***

A. To mention just one case, we should remember the conditions in the Comarca Prison in the capital Dili, where young Timorese girls whose families were suspected members of Fretilin were imprisoned and tortured by the Indonesians. These girls were beaten, given electrical-shock treatment, burnt with cigarettes and raped by the Indonesian soldiers in an effort to extract information about the guerrillas from them. Often these girls knew nothing, but they were savagely treated anyway. It was a flagrant case of abuses of human rights. And I have subsequently received letters from East Timorese people and my successor, Msgr. Carlos Ximenes Belo, which indicate that things are just as bad at the moment. He has told me of how the war is continuing despite what Jakarta says. The Indonesians are trying to hide the truth, but the fighting has worsened since last August when they launched a new counteroffensive against Fretilin.

Q. ***So in your view the situation remains bad in East Timor despite Indonesia's claims to the contrary?***

A. If Jakarta is telling the truth why won't they let in journalists and independent observers and international aid teams who want to go there, and let them move about freely and see the position for themselves? I have no doubt at all that fighting has not stopped on the island.

Q. ***Since your return to Portugal, have you made your views known and described your experiences to the Portuguese government?***

A. I have talked with President António Ramalho Eanes and also to Prime Minister Mário Soares and Foreign Minister Jaime Gama. I got the impression that they were sympathetic to my views, and I do not believe they will betray the Timorese people. I have also traveled throughout the country on lecture tours and have been asked many questions by many people about Timor. I think the Portuguese people are still very concerned about what happened in East Timor and want to see the territory made independent. Written on the walls near my home is a slogan that says, "East Timor is Portugal."